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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	Art Unit: 2837
Junichi HAYAKAWA et al.	)	Examiner: K. Lockett
Serial No. 09/720,028	)	
Filed: December 20, 2000	)	
For: SPEAKER DIAPHRAGM	)	

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicant submits herewith a Form PTO-1449 listing references known to Applicant and requests that these references be made of record in the above identified application. Copies of the references listed are submitted herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a).

JP 57-200996 describes that a plurality of ribs 12 which are equally separated are formed between the inner circumference 11a and outer circumference 11b, and these ribs 12 curve from points on the inner circumference 11a to the outer circumference 11b.

JP 64-067100 describes a speaker diaphragm which is made up of polypropylene, in which a radially-shaped ribs are formed.

JP 11-075290 and JP 60-213198 describe a speaker diaphragm which is made up of polypropylene.

It was noted that while the rib of Reference 2 has constant curvature, the curvature of the ribs of the present invention varies in accordance with the distance from the center.

Also, while at least one surface is curved in an area from the projection to the recess in the present invention, both the surfaces are folded in an area from the projection to the recess in Reference 2 (see, for example, Fig. 3 of the present application and Fig. 4 of Reference 2). Furthermore, while the projections of the present invention extend in the radial direction from a central area to an edge portion, the ribs of Reference 1 do not extend in the radial direction. Finally, Reference 2 does not teach or suggest every element of the present invention other than a plurality of the ribs which extend radially.

As a result of these arguments, the present invention has been allowed through the first Japanese Office Action dated August 22, 2003.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted with an RCE. Therefore, no fee is required.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>			
				Application Number		09/720,028	
				Filing Date		December 20, 2000	
				First Named Inventor		Junichi HAYAKAWA et al.	
				Group Art Unit		2837	
				Examiner Name		K. Lockett	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		0670-251	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>2</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>3</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials <sup>2</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>4</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>3</sup> (if known)				
		JP	57-200996			06/07/1981		NONE
		JP	64-067100			03/13/1989		AB
		JP	11-075290			03/16/1999		AB
		JP	60-213198			10/25/1985		AB

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials <sup>2</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		Notification of Refusal Reason, Japanese Patent Office, August 26, 2003	FULL

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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